

ADMINISTRATIVE -- INTERNAL USE ONLY

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN
OKINAWA BUREAU
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96239

4 June 1981
MOK-053

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Okinawa Bureau--May 1981

I. GENERAL

May was not a good month for U.S.-Japan relations. Amidst the continuing dispute over auto imports and following the U.S. submarine sinking of a Japanese freighter off the coast of Kyushu in late April, several incidents further strained ties between the two countries.

The first major problem occurred when opposition parties made an issue out of the word "alliance" in the U.S.-Japanese communique on Prime Minister Suzuki's visit to the U.S. early in the month. A scheduled 17-18 May visit to Okinawa and tour of various U.S. military facilities by Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito had to be cancelled when Ito and his deputy resigned in the wake of this controversy. Then, former U.S. Ambassador Reischauer's interview statement indicating that U.S. nuclear weapons had passed through Japanese territory triggered still another heated dispute. Reischauer's statement created an understandable outcry in Okinawa. Governor Nishime and leading LDP officials declined comment, but the local press made big news out of it. The press viewed Reischauer's candid statement as discrediting the government's longstanding line that there are or were no nuclear weapons in Japan, and suspicions have been aroused once again that Okinawa plays a key role in the storage/transit of such weapons. There have been some minor demonstrations by Okinawan protest groups. By month's end arguments were continuing over whether certain U.S. Navy ships should be allowed to enter Japanese ports.

II. OPERATIONS

1.A. Monitorial/Editorial

[Redacted Box]

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2. We are still waiting for an announcement on when the long-postponed--but expected--Chinese Communist Party Central Committee meeting will be held. A flurry of Western media reports in late April and early May predicted it would get underway in late May or early June. The bureau's veteran "China watchers" are speculating that word will come out once the funeral of the recently-deceased Madame Soong Ching Ling is over since the party hierarchy has gathered in Beijing to pay homage to the late honorary "president."

3. Polish labor leader Lech Walesa's May visit to Japan saw the bureau dabbling in an unfamiliar coverage area. While much of the reportage on his comments and activities was provided by KYODO, NHK TV on the 13th broadcast a 30-minute recorded interview which included a brief comment by Walesa on how the Polish people would cope with a Soviet intervention should that come about.

B. Lateral/Special Services

At the request of the Commander Torii Station, we began providing 4 hours per week of recordings of Chinese and North Korean radio broadcasts. The tapes are being forwarded by Torii to the Army in Hawaii where they will be used for training language officers. The Army is providing blank replacement cassettes.

C. Technical

1. We were notified by the Air Force late in the month that Nippon Telephone and Telegraph (NTT) is seeking concurrence for their proposal to build a microwave tower north of Yomitan village. No information containing the frequency assignment was included in NTT's request, so we have requested additional information. We are concerned about possible interference with ROSET.

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2. The bureau's backup emergency generator was operational again effective 13 May. Installed with its new stator, the unit was successfully tested on-line for one hour. Both the company which did the rewinding and our local techs did an excellent job. For the latter, this was their first experience with this kind of equipment failure.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. The bureau's post allowance was reduced from Class II to Class I, effective 31 May.

2. Senior Editor Jeff [] are proud parents of a baby daughter, Jennifer Anne, born on 30 May. Mother, daughter and father are all doing fine.

3. Our Chinese Unit continued to be plagued by illness. [] continued on sick leave for another month. He is still in Taiwan and, based on a recent letter, was hospitalized again for 17 days with continuing fever and weakness. Doctors planned a liver biopsy in early June. [] was hospitalized on 30 May, suffering from a large swelling on the right side of his neck. He remains hospitalized and tests are being carried out to determine the problem. Meanwhile, Chinese Monitor [] who had surgery in April, has returned to duty fulltime.

4. The dollar continues to show improvement against the yen, the official rate for June being pegged at ¥224.

IV. OTHER

A development of interest to old Okinawa hands. Following several years of rumors that the Air Force would close down the Skoshi KOOM (old FBIS club), the club has received a new lease on life. Reportedly the favorite eating place of Brig. Gen. Thomas McInerney, new commander of the 313th Air Division at Kadena, the club is receiving a thorough refurbishing, including the addition of Tepan Yaki and "Kobe Beef" - dining rooms in what used to be the BOQ wing of the building. Also plans are underway for a 50-car parking lot in the old VOA grassed-in area immediately in front of the club.

V. VISITS

To the Bureau: 18 May--Mr. Robert Dukes, GS-16, Regional DOD SpecRep from Camp Zama, Japan, accompanied by Tony Melzer, DOD SpecRep Torii Station.

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4 June- [] for 3 months TDY
Cruising training. Darwin was accompanied unofficially by his family.

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Bureau Chief

Attachments:
Coverage Report

cc: Chief, Bangkok Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau
Chief, Seoul Bureau

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